

Appl. No. 10/040,063
Amdt. Dated June 5, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 3, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 8 and 10 to 19 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8, and 14 are amended herein. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

Claim 1 stands objected to due to informalities in claim language. Specifically, claim 1 recites a misspelled word "pinots". Claim 1 has been amended to replace "pinots" with "points". Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is now in appropriate form.

Claims 1 to 4, 6, 8, 10 to 17 and 19 stand rejected by the Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,437,338 to Hoffman (hereinafter "Hoffman") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,530,935 to Dillen (hereinafter "Dillen"). In addition, claims 5, 10 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Hoffman in view of Dillen and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,736,401 to Donges (hereinafter "Donges"). Further, claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Hoffman in view of Dillen and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,713,773 to Lyons (hereinafter "Lyons").

The combination of Hoffman and Dillen fails to teach the invention as set forth in amended claims 1, 8 and 14. Claim 1 is now directed to a method of reading out a selected image comprising the steps of: selecting a region of interest of the sensor for which the desired temporal resolution of the image is higher than that for unselected regions of the sensor; collecting and storing information from the unselected regions for reading at a later stage, and separately reading each of the image points to provide an image. Claim 1 now further claims that the prolonged integration of the exposure in the unselected regions results in an improved local signal-to-noise ratio and higher image quality said regions. Independent claim 8 has similarly been amended to claim a device that collects and stores information from unselected image points for reading at a later stage, wherein a prolonged integration of an exposure in the unselected image points

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device for reading out regions of interest at a higher scanning rate than other regions by selecting a region of interest of the sensor for which the desired temporal resolution of the image is higher than that for unselected regions of the sensor; collecting and storing information from the unselected regions for reading at a later stage, and separately reading each of the image points to provide an image, as is claimed in claims 1, 8 and 14. Dillen further fails to disclose a method or device wherein the prolonged integration of the exposure in the unselected regions results in an improved local signal-to-noise ratio and higher image quality said regions. In contrast any increased rate of read-out in Dillen is achieved simply by discarding portions of the electronic image that is stored in the